

Remarks

Claims 1-33 are currently pending and stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) by Chawla (US Pat 5,812,640). Claims 1-33 also stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Silver (US Pat 6,240,174). Claims 1, 8, 14, 21, 24, 25, and 33 are amended. Applicants assert that claims 1-33 are in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below

102 Rejections - Chawla

Claims 1-33 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Chawla (US Pat 5,812,640). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and assert that Claims 1, 8, 14, 21, 24, 25, and 33 include similar recitations not taught or disclosed by Chawla. In constructing their response, Applicants are unclear from the Office Action as to whether the Examiner is equating the recited Announcement Service Node to the SCP 42 in figure 1 or to the non-AIN based switch facilities 55 in figure 2. In either case, Chawla fails to teach the recited subject matter.

As an example, claim 1 recites, in part,

“a system for providing recorded announcements...comprising...an announcement service node coupled to the central terminal further comprising a data schema and an application server for accessing the data schema, wherein the application server is accessible by more than one central terminal coupled to the communications network, wherein said data schema comprises a storage mass for storing a plurality of recorded announcements that include information for callers on the communications network...”.

First, if the announcement service node is equated to the SCP 42 then the rejection fails since the SCP 42 does not “comprise a data schema and an application server for accessing the data schema... wherein said data schema comprises a storage mass for storing a plurality of recorded announcements that include information for callers on the communications network” as recited. Chawla’s SCP 42 does not contain a storage mass containing the announcements nor does it contain an application server for transmitting announcements. (Col. 5, ln.20-40).

Second, if the announcement service node is equated to the non-AIN based Switch Facilities 55 resident in the caller’s local switch 12, then the rejection also fails

since a non-AIN based Switch Facilities 55 does not comprise an application server, wherein the application server is accessible by more than one central terminal coupled to the communications network. Chawla does not teach that the non-AIN based switch facilities 55 is accessible to more than one central office. Chawla merely teaches that the SCP 42 sends a CIC code back to the caller's switch 12 to initiate the announcement (Col.5, 1.40-55) or once received by caller's switch 12 that caller's local switch 12 may route announcement instructions received from the SCP 42 to a another non-intelligent switch announcement frame 60 located at a separate switch and not to another central office. It should be noted that the trunk paths 30 and 32 are voice path trunks that interconnect central offices 12, 14, and 16 over which *calls are connected when completed* and therefore do not give access by central office 14 and 16 to an application server in central office 12 to send messages. (Col7, 1. 1-17).

Furthermore Chawla does not disclose the use of digital packet files and converting them to voice files at the central terminal. In this regard Claim 1 continues to recite, in pertinent part,

“the at least one central terminal further comprising an announcement digital signal processor in communication with the incoming call, wherein the announcement digital signal processor converts one or more digital packet files to voice signals...”.

Chawla merely discloses that the non-AIN based facilities at the calling party's local switch plays an announcement via a voice circuit trunk line in response to receiving an instruction. (Col 5, l. 45-Col. 6, l. 3).

Therefore, no matter if the announcement services node is equated to the SCP 42 or the Non-AIN based Switch Facilities 55, Chawla does not teach the subject matter recited in claim 1 and as such, claim 1 is allowable over Chawla for at least these reasons.

As another example, claims 8, 14, 21, 24, 25 and 33 recites similar elements. As a further example claim 8 recites, in part,

“an application server system for accessing a database at a service node in a communications network....means for providing digitally compressed recorded announcements to any central office on the network upon a call from an individual being connected to a central office where the means for providing is separate from any central office and maintains a communication link to the at least one central office such that the recorded announcement is provided from the means for storing the recorded announcements to the at least one central office while the call from the individual is connected to the central office such that the digitally compressed recorded announcement

is converted to a voice file by the announcement digital signal processor and audibly conveys information to the calling individual as the recorded announcement is played from the central office during the call

Chawla does not teach a database at a service node nor a means for providing recorded announcements that is separate from the central office. Chawla teaches the storage and means for providing of the announcements at a non-AIN based switch 55 located at the Central office switch 12 not at a service node that is separate from the central office. As such, for at least these reasons independent claims 8, 14, 21, 24, 25 and 33 are allowable over Chawla.

Since Chawla does not teach all of the elements of amended claims 1, 8, 14, 21, 24, 25 and 33, these independent claims are allowable over Chawla for at least these reasons. Dependent claims 2-7, 9-13, 15-20, 22-23 and 26-32 depend from allowable independent claims 1, 8, 14, 21 or 25 and are allowable for at least these same reasons.

102 Rejections - Silver

Claims 1-33 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Silver (US Pat 6,240,174). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Claims 1, 8, 14, 21, 24, 25, and 33 include similar recitations not taught or disclosed by Silver. It is unclear from the broad assertions in the Office Action how the Examiner is applying Silver to the claim recitations other than asserting that the figures look similar. Applicants can only assume that the Examiner is equating the claimed announcement service node to either one of the intelligent peripherals 405, 415 or 425 or to the EMS Server 431. In either case, Silver fails to teach the recited subject matter.

As an example, claim 1 recites, in pertinent part,

“a system for providing recorded announcements...comprising... an announcement service node coupled to the...central terminal further comprising a data schema and an application server for accessing the data schema, wherein the application server is accessible by more than one central terminal coupled to the communications network...wherein a call from an individual is connected to the announcement digital signal processor at the... central terminal, with the announcement digital signal processor receiving an announcement digital packet file from the announcement service node while

the call from the individual is connected to the at least one central terminal and converting the announcement digital packet file to a voice file so as to audibly convey information to the calling individual as the recorded announcement is played from the at least one central terminal during the call”.

Silver specifically states the EMS Server 431 acts as a store-forward facility to propagate customer data from the EMS database 433 to each regional database 409, 419, and 429. (Col. 6, l. 45-49). In short, the EMS Server/database merely updates the regional relational databases with customer specific information changes in periodic updates. (Col. 7, l. 35-43; Col. 8, l. 23-67). The EMS server 431 does not send announcements for callers while the caller is connected to the central terminal. Therefore, the EMS Server 431 can not be an announcement service node wherein a call from an individual is connected to the at least one central terminal, with the at least one central terminal receiving an appropriate recorded announcement from the announcement service node while the call from the individual is connected to the at least one central terminal so as to audibly convey information to the calling individual as the recorded announcement is played from the at least one central terminal during the call.

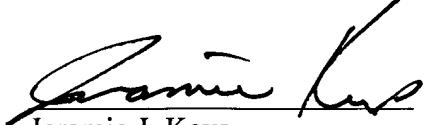
Alternatively, if the Office Action is equating the recited announcement service node to one of the local intelligent peripherals 405, 415, or 425, Silver does not disclose that the local intelligent peripherals store announcements in digital packet files nor does it disclose an announcement digital signal processor within the central terminal to convert the announcement digital packet files to a voice file. Therefore, no matter if the announcement services node is equated to the EMS server 431 or one of the intelligent peripherals 405, 415 or 425, Silver does not teach the subject matter recited in claim 1 and as such, claim 1 is allowable over Silver for at least these reasons.

Conclusion

Applicants assert that claims 1-33 of the present application are in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,



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